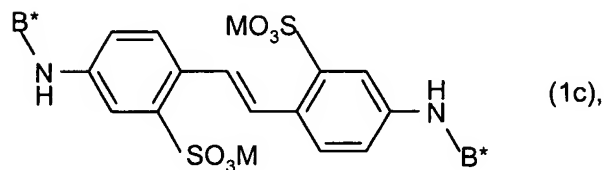
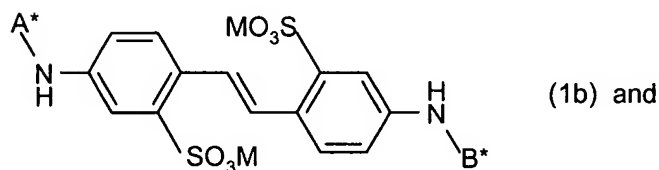
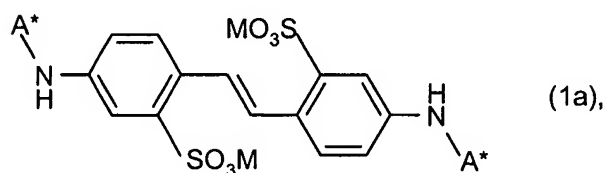


IN THE CLAIMS

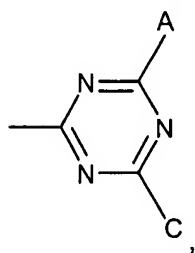
The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.(**currently amended**): A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



in which

A* represents a group of the formula

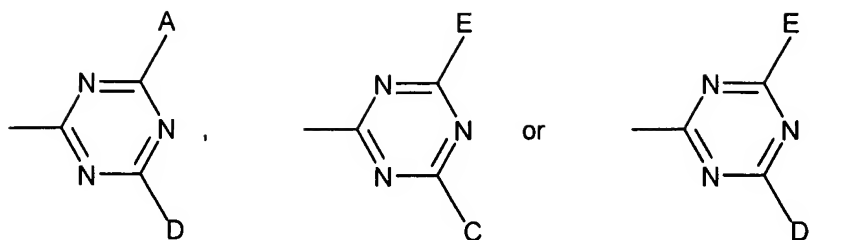


wherein

A represents $-X-Y-NR_3R_4$ and

C is $-NR_1R_2$ and

B* represents a group of the formula



whereby the groups A* and B* are not identical,

wherein

D represents $-NR_5R_6$ and

E represents $-X_1-Y_1-NR_7R_8$, whereby

X and X_1 each, independently of each other, represent $-O-$ or $-NH-$,

Y and Y_1 each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C_2-C_8 alkylene or branched C_3-C_8 alkylene chain, which may be interrupted by one or two nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms or represent a 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic ring,

R_1 , R_2 , R_5 and R_6 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido, or

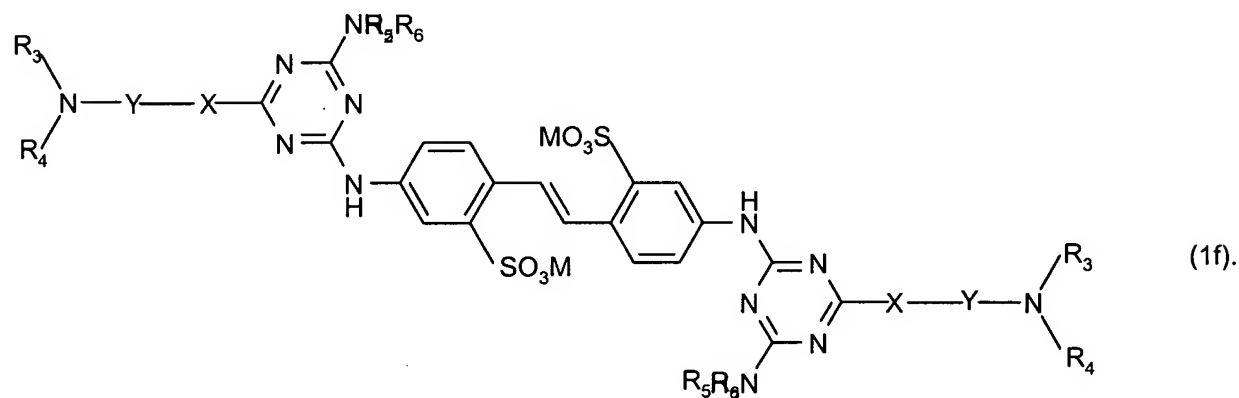
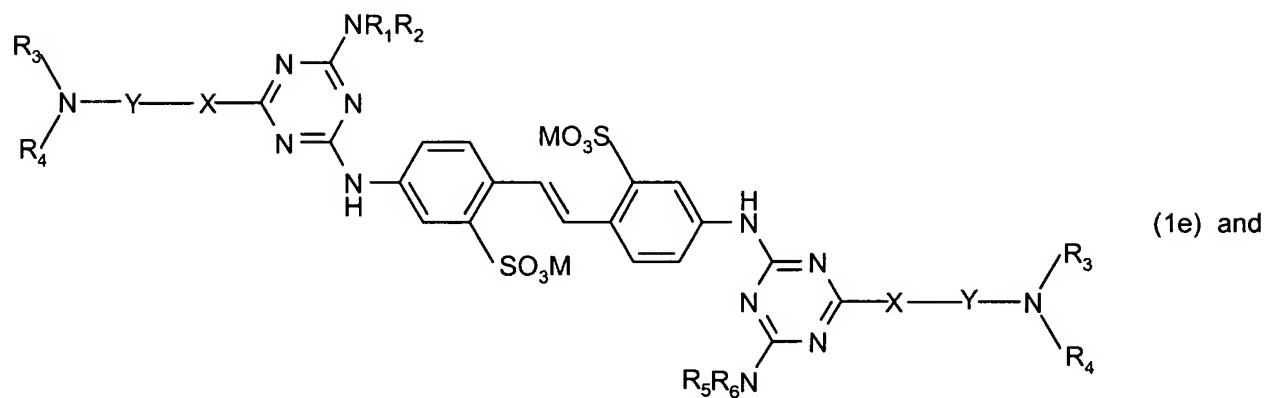
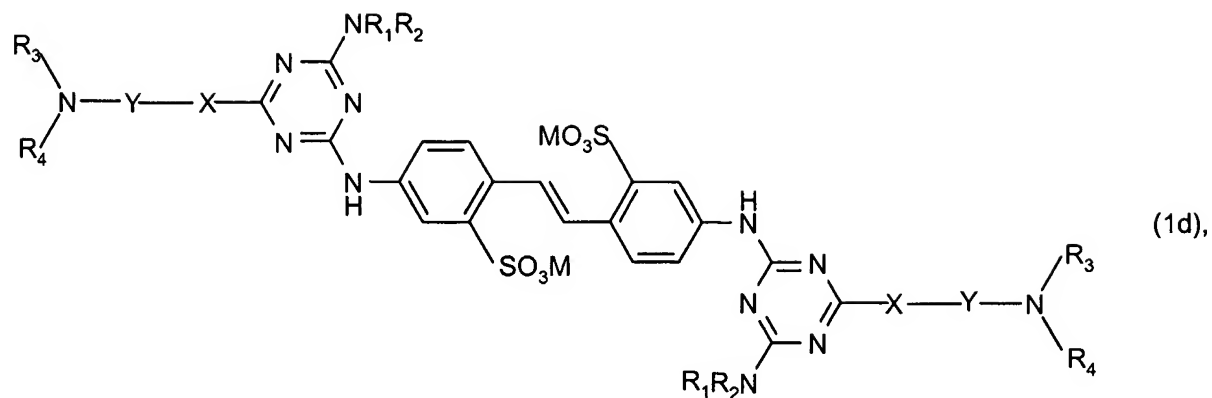
R_1 and R_2 and /or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino- piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_3 , R_4 , R_7 and R_8 , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl or

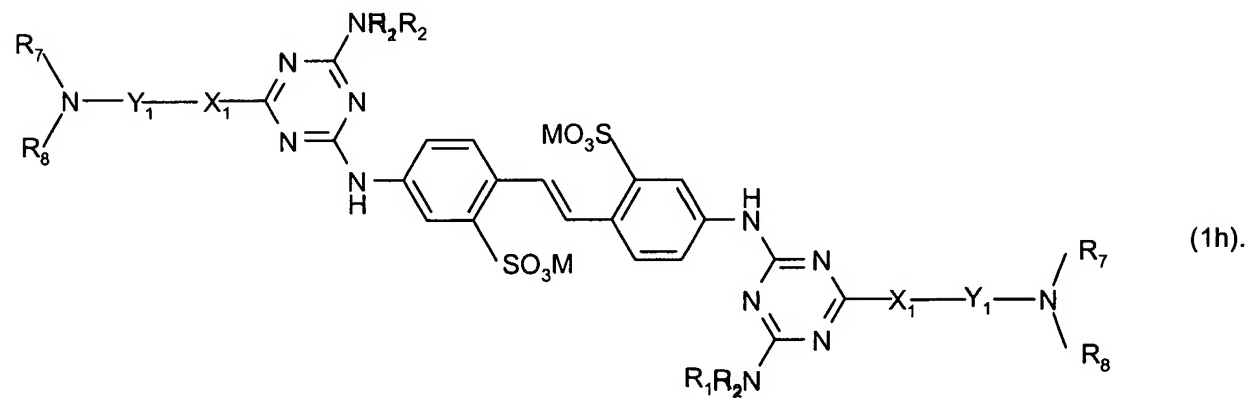
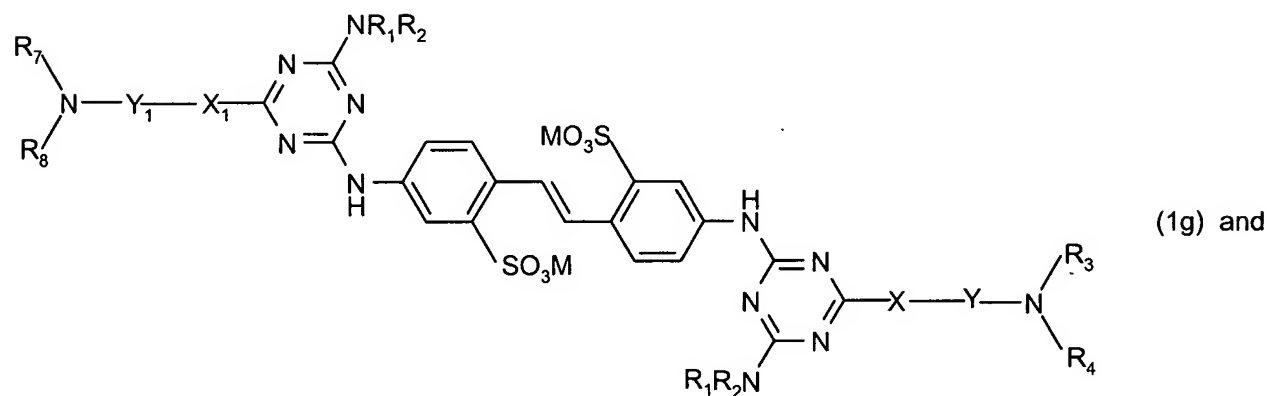
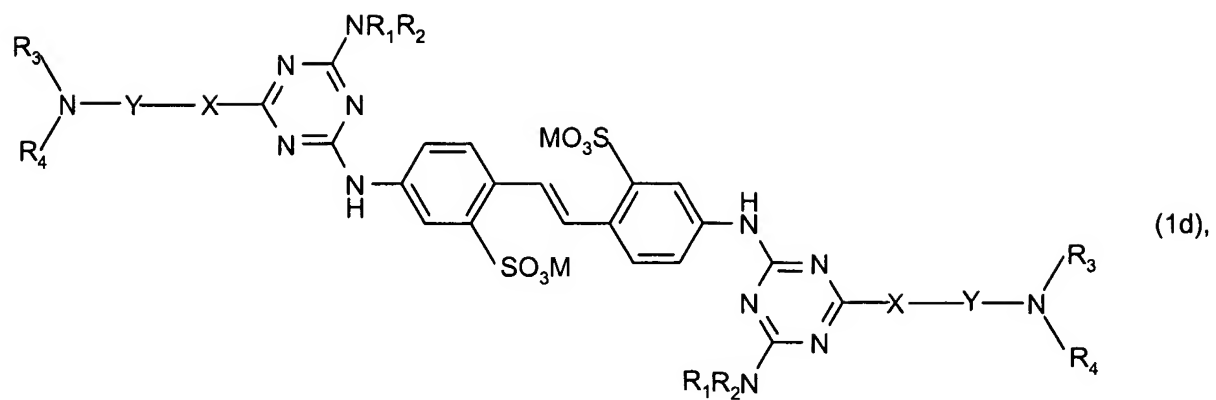
R_3 and R_4 and/or R_7 and R_8 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium.

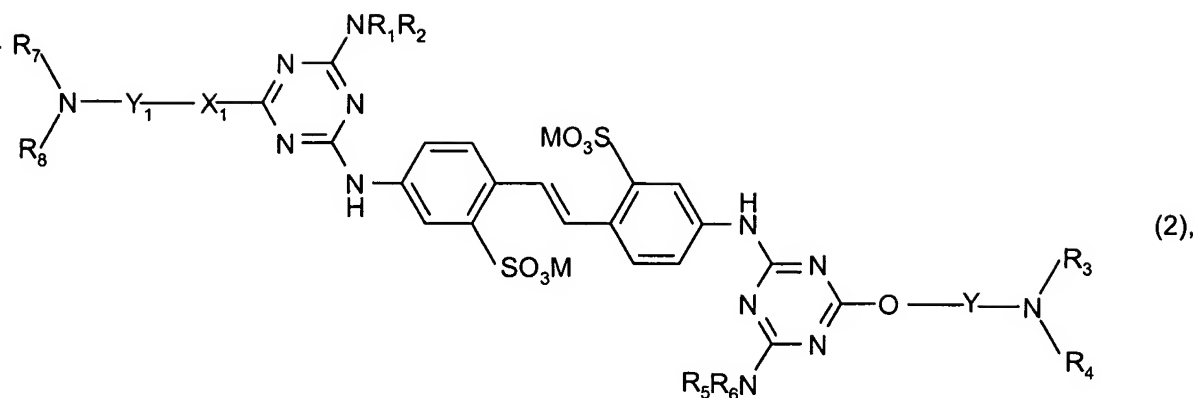
2. **(previously presented):** A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



3. **(previously presented):** A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



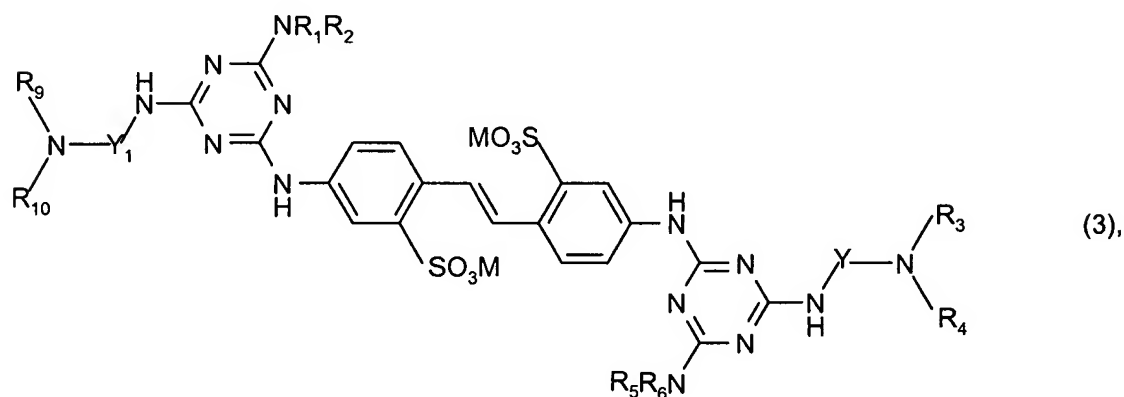
4. (original): A compound of formula



in which

X₁, Y, Y₁, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ and M are as defined in claim 1.

5. **(currently amended):** A compound of the formula



in which

R₉ and R₁₀, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl and Y₁ and Y each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C₂-C₈alkylene or branched C₃-C₈alkylene chain, which may be interrupted by one or two nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms or represent a 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic ring,

R₁, R₂, R₅ and R₆ each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyC₁-C₄alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamido, or

R₁ and R₂ and /or R₅ and R₆, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino- piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R₃ and R₄ each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl or

R₃ and R₄, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium

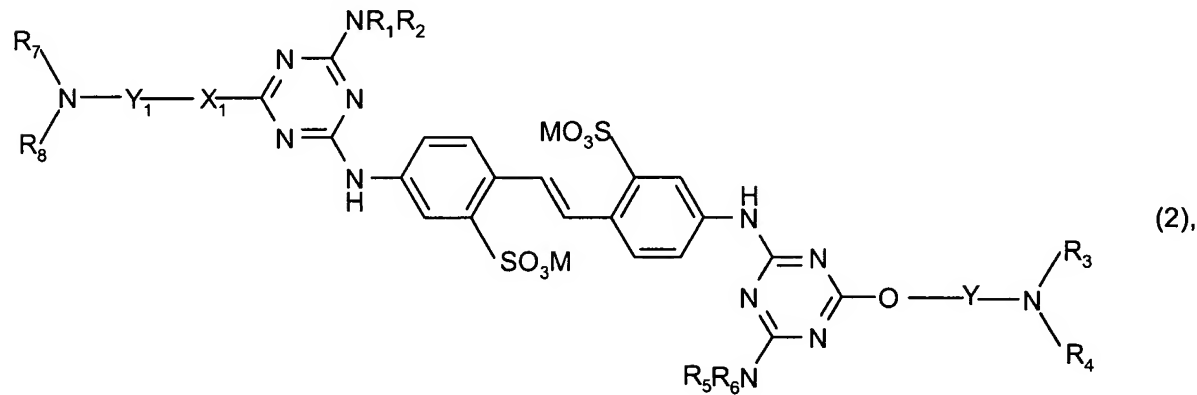
~~R₄, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, and M are as defined in claim 1,~~

with the proviso that when

Y and Y₁ both represent -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, R₁ and R₅ are both phenyl and R₂ and R₆ are both hydrogen, R₃, R₄, R₉ and R₁₀ are not all -CH₂CH₂OH.

6. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'- disulphonic acid, amino compounds of formulae R₁R₂NH and R₅R₆NH or mixtures thereof and compounds of formulae R₃R₄YXH and R₇R₈Y₁X₁H or mixtures thereof.

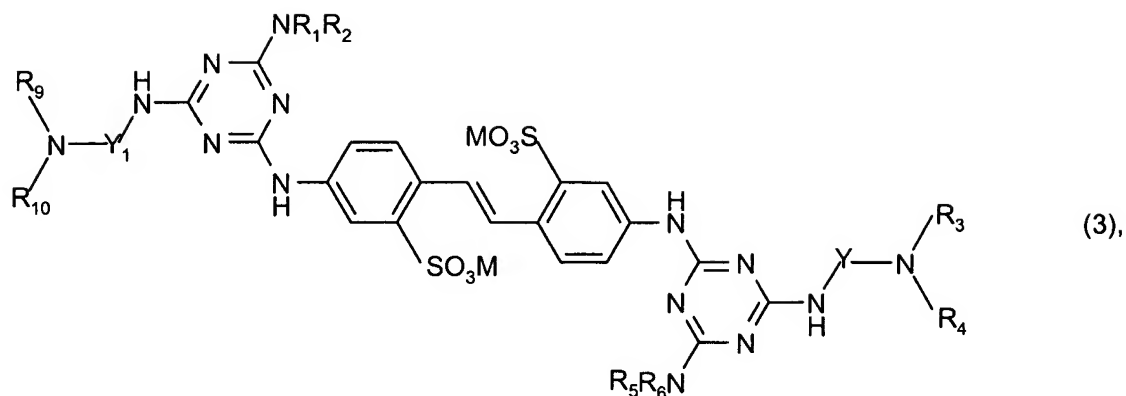
7. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (2),



by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'- disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R₁R₂NH, an amino compound of formula R₅R₆NH, a hydroxy compound of formula R₃R₄NYOH and a compound of formula R₇R₈NY₁X₁H,

X₁, Y, Y₁, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ being as defined in claim 1.

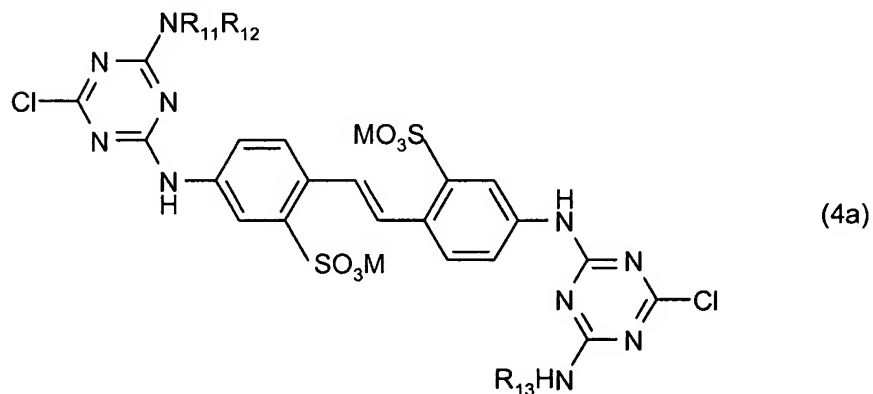
8. **(previously presented):** A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3),



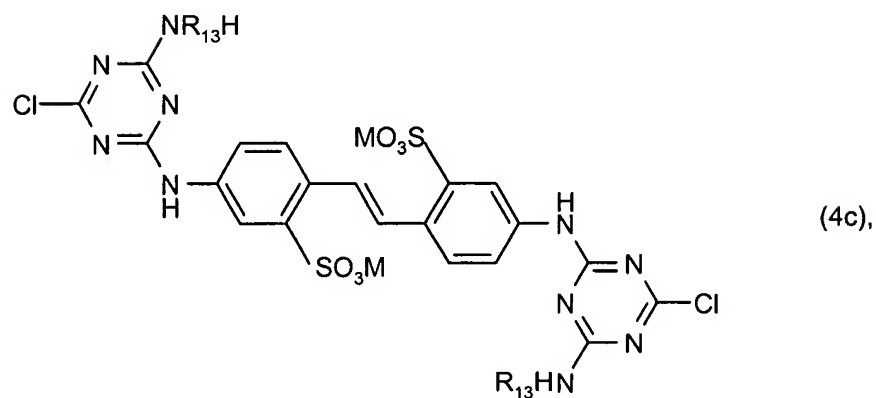
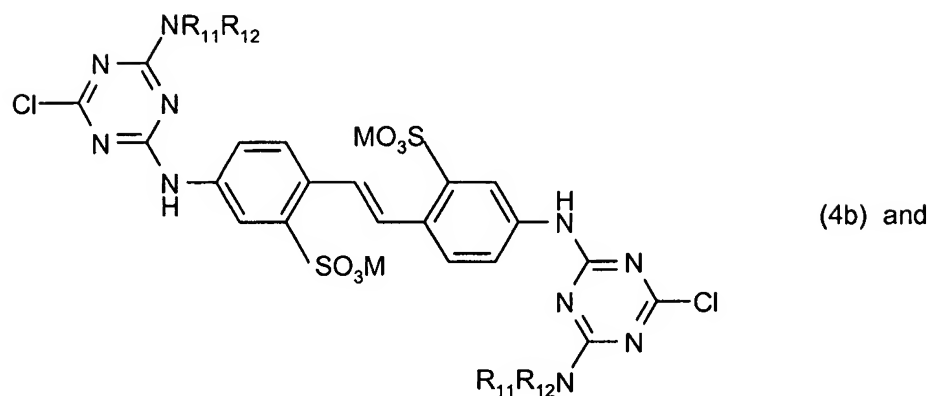
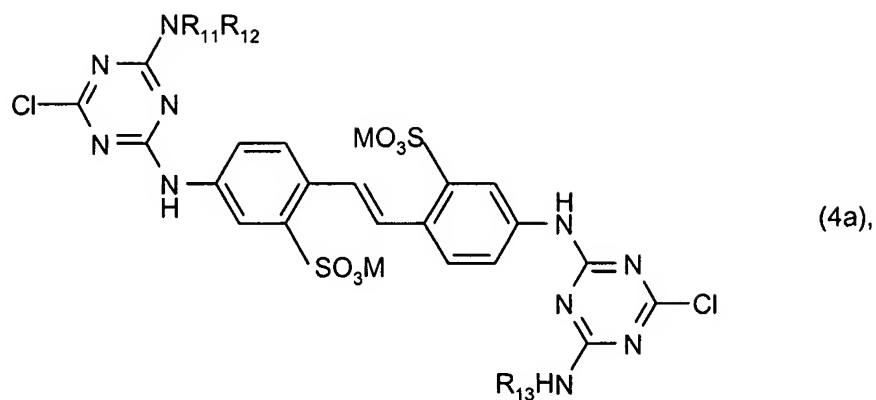
by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R_1R_2NH , an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH , an amino compound of formula $R_3R_4NYNH_2$ and a compound of formula $R_9R_{10}NY_1NH_2$,

Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_9 and R_{10} being as defined in claim 5.

9. **(original):** A compound of the formula



or a mixture comprising compounds of the formulae



in which

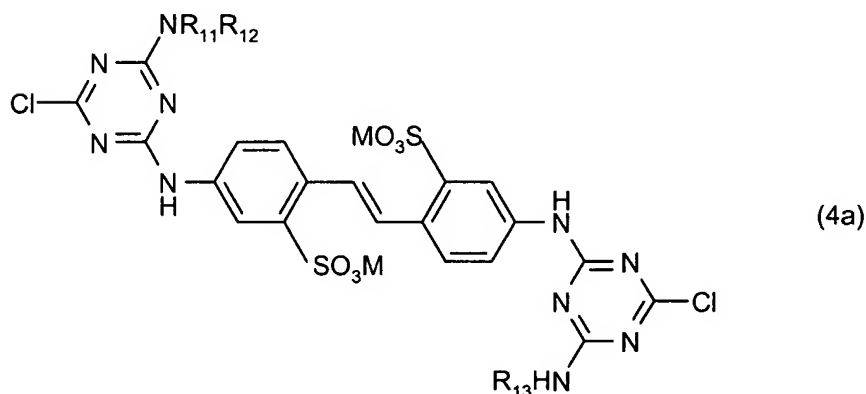
R₁₁ and R₁₂, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyC₁-C₄alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R₁₃ represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamido and

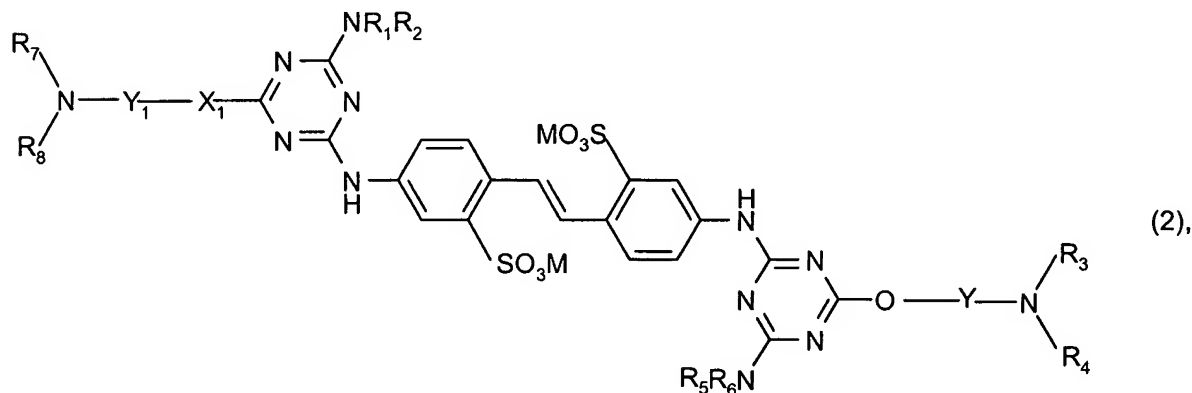
M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium.

10. **(previously presented)**: A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (4a) or a mixture of compounds of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c), according to claim 9, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and an amino compound of formula $R_{13}NH_2$ or with a mixture of amino compounds $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and $R_{13}NH_2$, R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} .

11. **(previously presented)**: An intermediate of the compound of formula (4a),



for the preparation of a compound of formula (2),



in which, in formula (2),

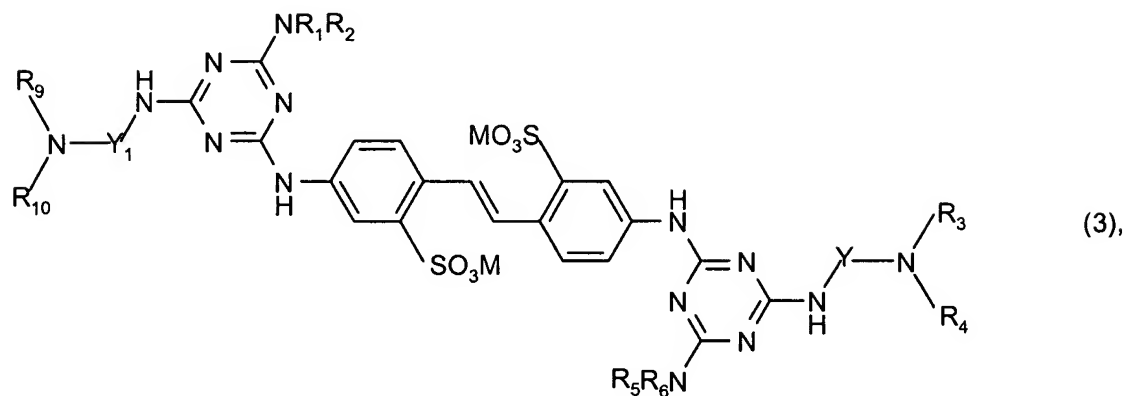
R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

X₁, Y, Y₁, R₃, R₄, R₇, R₈ and M are as defined in claim 1 or

for the preparation of compound of formula (3),



in which, in formula (3),

R₁ and R₂ each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyC₁-C₄alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R₅ represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamido,

R₆ represents hydrogen and

Y, Y₁, R₃, R₄, R₉, R₁₀, and M are as previously defined in claims 1

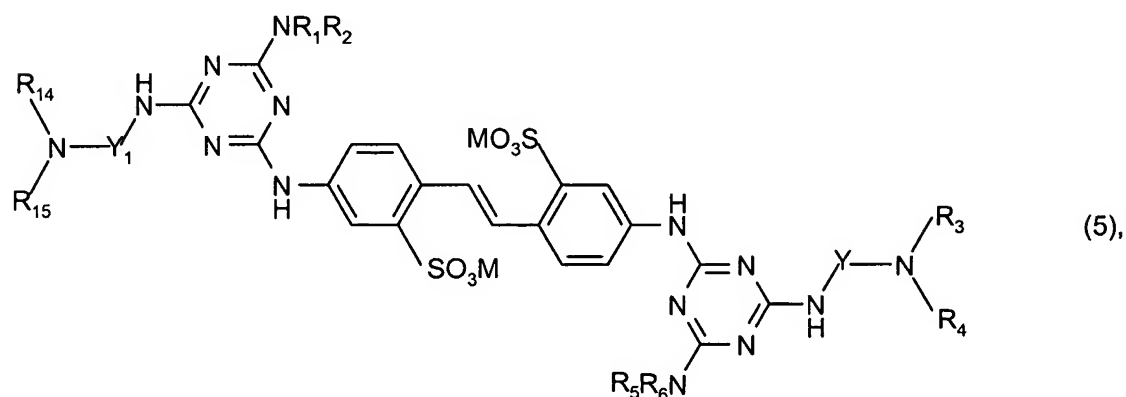
wherein R₉ and R₁₀, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl and, with the proviso that when

Y and Y₁ both represent -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, R₁ and R₅ are both phenyl and R₂ and R₆ are both hydrogen, R₃, R₄, R₉ and R₁₀ are not all -CH₂CH₂OH.

12. **(previously presented)**: a method of florescent whitening paper comprising contacting the paper with a fluorescent whitening mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1.

13. **(previously presented)**: A method of florescent whitening paper comprising contacting the the paper with a fluorescent whitening agent of a compound of formula (2), according to claim 4.

14. **(previously presented)**: A method of florescent whitening paper comprising contacting the paper with a fluorescent whitening agent of formula (5)



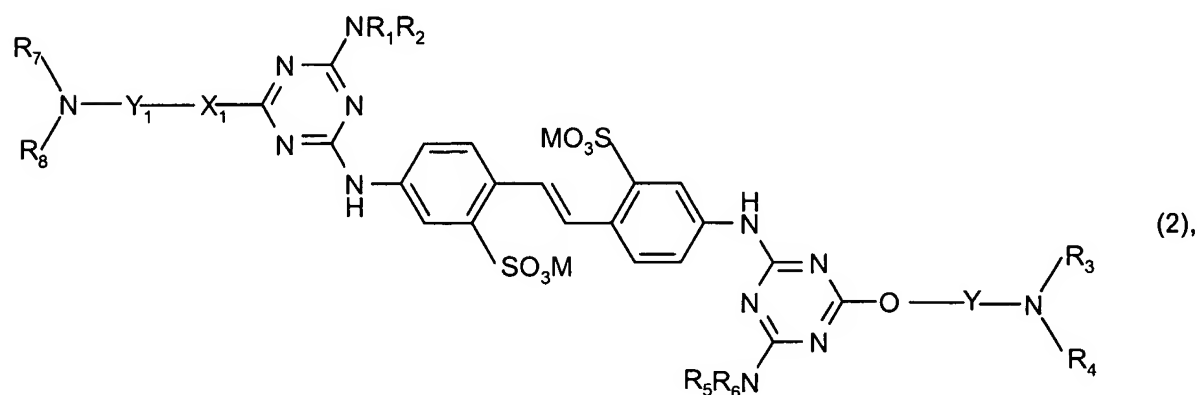
in which

R_{14} and R_{15} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl and

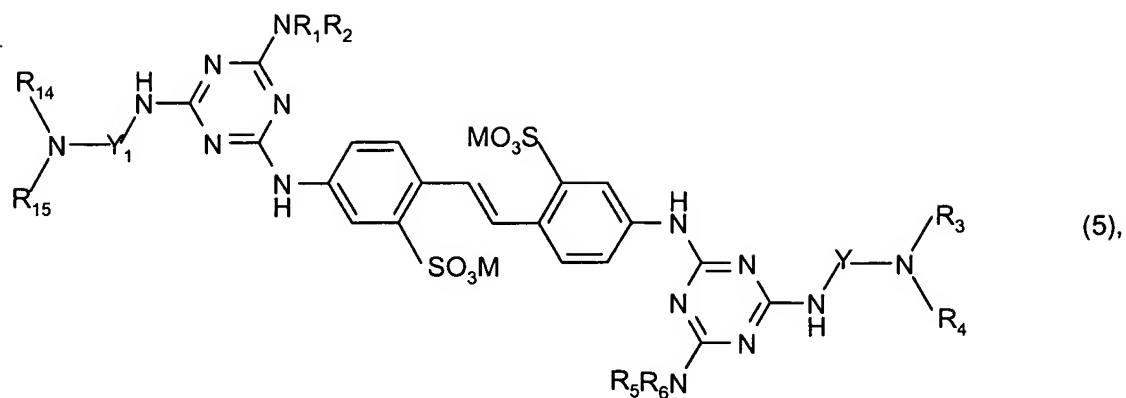
Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , and M are as defined in claim 1.

15. **(previously presented)**: Paper, which has been treated with a fluorescent whitening agent comprising either a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1,

a compound of formula (2),



or a compound of formula (5),

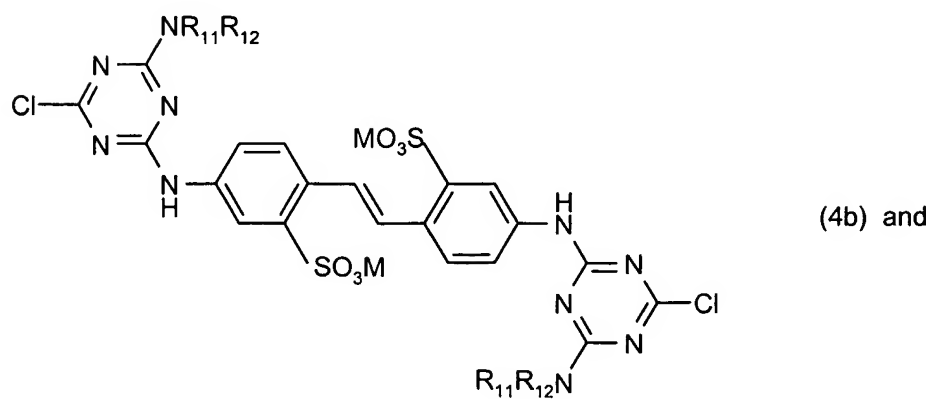
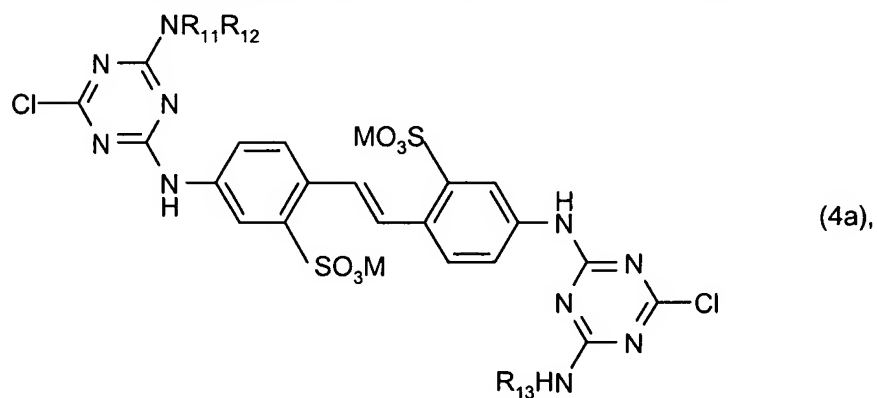


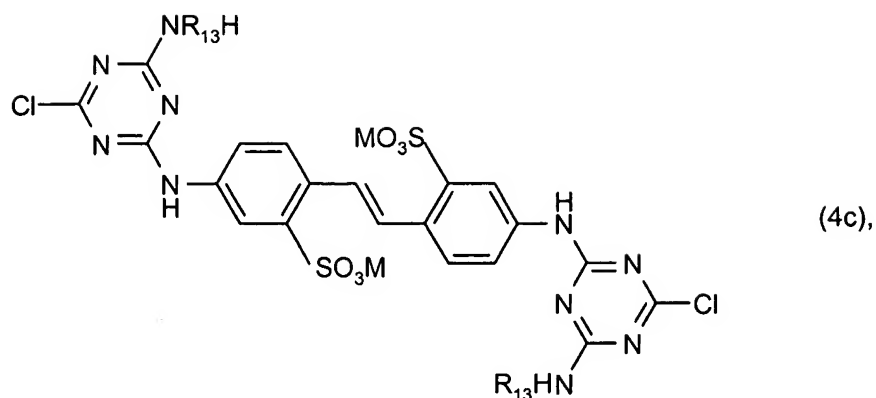
in which

R_{14} and R_{15} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl and

X_1 , Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and M are as defined in claim 1.

16. **(previously presented):** A mixture of intermediates of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c),





in which in formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c),

R_{11} and R_{12} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_{13} represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium,

for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, in which, in formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c),

R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

X, X_1 , Y, Y_1 , R_3 , R_4 , R_7 , R_8 and M are as defined in claim 1.